

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18, 21 and 22 have been allowed. Claims 30, 31, 39 and 40 have been objected to. Claims 30, 31, 39 and 40 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 23-29, 32-38, 41 and 42 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18, 21, 22, 30, 31, 39 and 40 are pending in the application. Support for the amendment to claims 30 and 39 may be found in original claims 23 and 32, respectively. Thus, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections in view of the amendments and comments presented herein are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 23-26, 28, 29, 32-35, 37, 38, 41 and 42 were rejected as being anticipated by Adams et al. (US 2002/0012869). Claims 23-26, 28, 29, 32-35, 37, 38, 41 and 42 have been canceled herein, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al. (US 2002/0012869) in view of Takeda et al. (U.S. 6,593,056 B2). Claims 27 and 36 have been canceled herein, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18, 21 and 22 have been allowed. The Examiner objected to claims 30, 31, 39, and 40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 30, 31, 39 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims should now be allowable.

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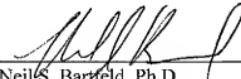
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and comments presented above, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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